

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-05 IGA-02 AID-05 OMB-01

TRSE-00 CU-02 /065 W

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R 241200Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9030

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

USIA WASHDC

DIRNSA

13 AF/CC CLARK AB PHIL

13AF/CV UTAPAO

COMUSMACTHAI BANGKOK TH

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 4196

USIA PASS IEA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, MARR, MILI TH

SUBJ: U.S. MILITARY RESIDUAL IN THAILAND

A. BANGKOK 3889

B. BANGKOK 3677 NOTAL

1. ENGLISH-LANGUAGE DAILIES BANGKOK POST AND NATION  
TODAY FRONTPAGED ARTICLES ABOUT NEGOTIATION OF RESIDUAL  
FORCE. POST HIGHLIGHTS THAI "DEMAND" FOR U.S. RESPONSE  
TO "SEVEN PRINCIPLES" BEFORE END OF FEBRUARY, AND NATION  
REPORTS FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS ASKED MOD TO DECIDE ON  
"FATE" OF RAMASUN AND KO KHA BY END OF MONTH .

2. WE STRONGLY SUSPECT BOTH STORIES PLANTED BY  
WORAPHUT CHAIYANAM, CHIEF, AMERICAN DIVISION, MFA  
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(SEE REF A), UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM UNDER SECRETARY

ANAN.

3. POST SAID U.S. PROPOSES TO KEEP 4,000 TROOPS HERE -- 1,000 OF THEM FOR RETROGRADE EFFORT -- "BUT SO FAR THE THAI AUTHORITIES HAVE NOT MADE ANY NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE U.S. OVER THE FIGURE, APPARENTLY WAITING FOR THE U.S. REPLY ON THE SEVEN CONDITIONS BEFORE MAKING THE NEXT MOVE." ARTICLE REVIEWS SOME OF THE "CONDITIONS" FOR KEEPING RESIDUAL HERE: THAI JURISDICTION, TRAINING OF THAI TO OPERATE SOPHISTICATED EQUIPMENT, PRIVILEGES SIMILAR TO THOSE FOR "TECHNICAL EXPERTS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES."

4. ACCORDING TO POST: "THE SOURCE SAID THAILAND IS ALSO CONSIDERING PROPOSING TO THE U.S. THE ABOLITION OF THE 1950 MILITARY AID PACT. BUT IF THE VARIOUS CONDITIONS ARE ACCEPTED BY THE AMERICANS, THEN IT WILL BE ASSUMED THAT THE PACT IS AMENDED."

5. NATION SAID U.S. EMBASSY "HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT A NEW AGREEMENT WITH THE THAI GOVERNMENT IS IMPERATIVE TO MAINTAIN AMERICAN MILITARY PERSONNEL, EXCEPT FOR JUSMAG WHICH COMES UNDER A SEPARATE AGREEMENT, FOLLOWING THE MARCH 20 DEADLINE.

6. ABOUT KO KHA AND RAMASUN, NATION REMARKED: "THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS ASKED THE DEFENSE MINISTRY TO DECIDE ON THE FATE OF BOTH STATIONS BY THE END OF THIS MONTH. CONTINUED MAINTENANCE OF THE TWO STATIONS WILL INVOLVE A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE AND HIGHLY DEVELOPED TECHNICAL SKILL. THE MAIN QUESTION CONSIDERED BY THE DEFENSE MINISTRY IS: IS IT WORTH TAKING OVER AND CAN WE AFFORD IT?"

7. COMMENT: THESE ARTICLES, LIKE THE PREVIOUSLY REPORTED STORIES INSPIRED BY WORAPHUT AND ANAN, HAVE CONSISTENT THEMES: IT IS AMERICANS WHO WANT TO KEEP TROOPS HERE (RATHER THAN A COOPERATIVE EFFORT WITH SHARED BENEFITS), NEGOTIATIONS FOR A NEW STATUS MUST PRECED DECISION ON RESIDUAL DETAILS, AND RTG EXPECTS CONFIDENTIAL

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RESPONSE FROM U.S. ON SEVEN PRINCIPLES BEFORE THE END OF FEBRUARY. WHILE POST ARTICLE MAKES IT APPEAR FOREIGN MINISTRY RELENTING ON SECOND THEME, NATION ARTICLE REASSERTS IT, TANGLED WITH THE IDEA THAT JUSMAG CAN BE SEPARATED FROM REST OF RESIDUAL. PATTERN OF CONTINUING FOREIGN MINISTRY LEAKS SUGGESTS ANAN AND UNDERLINGS EITHER STILL OFFICIALLY IGNORANT OF -- OR CONSCIOUSLY RESISTANT TO -- VIEWS EXPRESSED

BY PRIME MINISTER IN REF B. OUR RESPONSE TO SEVEN  
PRINCIPLES MAY HELP DEFUSE PRESS CAMPAIGN TO PORTRAY  
U.S. DRAGGING ITS FEET IN FACE OF THAI "DEMANDS,"  
BUT WE CAN EXPECT PERSISTENT NEGATIVE REPORTS ON  
NEGOTIATIONS TO SWIRL THROUGH PRESS AS LONG AS ANAN  
AND FOLLOWERS REMAIN UNRECONCILED TO PRIME MINISTER'S  
VIEW. THOUGH ANAN MAY HOLD WEAK CARDS IN THE  
BUREAUCRATIC GAME, HIS MEDIA STANCE WILL ENERGIZE  
INCREASINGLY OPEN DISSENT BY OTHER GROUPS WITH  
POLITICAL EFFECT ON KHUKRIT AS YET UNPREDICTABLE.  
ACCORDING TO RELIABLE REPORTER, POSTERS WENT UP AT  
THAMMASAT UNIVERSITY TODAY DEMANDING "AMERICANS MUST  
GO BY MARCH 20." STUDENTS WERE SEEN HANDING OUT  
LEAFLETS CONTAINING SIMILAR THEME.  
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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